

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 164036
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY

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FOLLOWING REPEAT WELLINGTON 03280 ACTION MANILA INFO BANGKOK
SECSTATE, GENEVA, AND DEA WASHDC DATED JUNE 22, 1978.

QUOTE: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE WELLINGTON 03280

MANILA FOR S/A GREENE; BANGKOK FOR DEA

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, NZ, XP

SUBJECT: PROPOSAL FOR SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL NARCOTICS

- TRAINING PROGRAM

SUMMARY: EMBASSY AND GNZ AUTHORITIES SUPPORT PROPOSAL
FOR SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL NARCOTICS TRAINING PROGRAM
SUGGESTED FOR NEXT YEAR IN NEW ZEALAND. GNZ HAS
TENTATIVELY OFFERED TO HOST TRAINING PROGRAM, PROVIDED
USG WILL EXTEND FINANCIAL AND TRAINING SUPPORT.

TRAINING WOULD BE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE
ABILITIES OF ISLAND STATES TO RECOGNIZE AND INTER-
DICT NARCOTICS MOVEMENTS WITHIN THEIR OWN BOUNDARIES.
AMONG PROBLEMS TO BE FACED IN EARLY STAGES OF PLANNING

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PAGE 02 STATE 164036

ARE: (A) LIMITATIONS TO THE NUMBER OF STATES LIKELY
TO BE INTERESTED AND (B) FINANCING OF INTERNATIONAL
TRAVEL FOR TRAINEES. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING VISIT OF MANILA DEA S/A MANSON TO NEW ZEALAND
LAST WEEK, MANSON DISCUSSED WITH NARCOTICS COORDINATOR
THE POSSIBILITY OF HOSTING IN NEW ZEALAND A SOUTH

PACIFIC REGIONAL NARCOTICS TRAINING PROGRAM. PROPOSAL WAS FOR THE GNZ TO HOST A TWO-THREE WEEK DEA AND CUSTOMS TRAINING PROGRAM, PROBABLY IN WELLINGTON, OFFERING, AT VARIOUS LEVELS OF SOPHISTICATION, INSTRUCTION ON NARCOTICS INTERDICTION FOR THE SMALL AND MOSTLY ILL-PREPARED ISLAND NATIONS. ACCORDING TO MANSON, DEA/CUSTOMS COULD TAKE THE LEAD IN ORGANIZING THE INSTRUCTION (PERHAPS ASSISTED BY AUSTRALIA AND NZ) AND SEEK FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL OF THE ISLAND TRAINEES.

2. MANSON WILL BE BRIEFING MANILA, BANGKOK AND DEA HQS ON THE FULL RANGE OF HIS DISCUSSIONS. EMBASSY WANTS TO PUT ON RECORD, HOWEVER, ITS SUPPORT FOR THE REGIONAL TRAINING EFFORT AND RECORD THAT GNZ CONTACTS HAVE BEEN SIMILARLY SUPPORTIVE. THESE INCLUDE NATIONAL DRUG INTELLIGENCE BUREAU, SENIOR LEVELS OF NZ POLICE, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AND CHAIRMAN OF GOVERNMENT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON NARCOTICS, MP BARRY BRILL.

3. THE PROPOSED SOUTH PACIFIC NARCOTICS TRAINING IS VIEWED BY THE EMBASSY AS A SIGNIFICANT REGIONAL CONTRIBUTION AND ONE WHICH THE SMALL REGIONAL MEMBERS ARE LIKELY TO WELCOME WITH ENTHUSIASM. INCREASINGLY, THE HEAVY YACHT MOVEMENTS AMONG THE ISLANDS AND ACROSS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 STATE 164036

THE PACIFIC HAVE BEEN USED BY NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS; SOUTH PACIFIC STATE AUTHORITIES HAVE BECOME CONSCIOUS OF THE POTENTIALLY SERIOUS EFFECTS NARCOTICS (SALES OR TRAFFICKING) MAY HAVE ON THEIR SOCIETIES. BUT, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND, THESE STATES ARE ILL-EQUIPPED TO MAKE ANYTHING BUT THE MOST PERFUNCTORY EFFORTS AT INTERDICTION. EMBASSY IS CONFIDENT MOST OF THE REGIONAL STATES WILL WANT TO PARTICIPATE IN A TAILORED PROGRAM DESIGNED TO IMPROVE THEIR CAPABILITIES IN THIS REGARD.

4. EMBASSY HAS TWO AREAS OF EARLY CONCERN AND HAS EXPRESSED THEM TO MANSON: (A) THE INABILITY OF MOST OF THE ISLAND STATES TO FUND INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL FOR THEIR TRAINEES; AND (B) HOLDING THE TRAINING PROGRAM TO A WORKABLE SIZE GIVEN THE LARGE NUMBER OF MEMBER STATES IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL GROUPINGS AND THEIR INDIVIDUAL SENSITIVITIES AT BEING LEFT OUT OF REGIONAL EFFORTS.

- (A) INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL IN THE PACIFIC IS AMONG THE MOST EXPENSIVE IN THE WORLD. NATIONAL ECONOMIES

IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC ARE TYPICALLY SMALL AND FRAGILE.
NOTHING WOULD SEEM MORE LIKELY TO DAMPEN THE ENTHUSIASM OF THE NATIONAL AUTHORITIES FOR THE TRAINING EFFORT THAN THE VERY DIFFICULT PROSPECT OF FINDING NEW FUNDS FOR A SIGNIFICANT FOREIGN TRAVEL BILL.

- (B) THE SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION, INCLUDING THE FIVE METROPOLE STATES (AUSTRALIA, NZ, FRANCE, UK AND US) NUMBERS TWENTY-FIVE. (FYI: AMERICAN SAMOA, AUSTRALIA, COOK ISLANDS, FIJI, FRANCE, FRENCH POLYNESIA, GILBERT ISLANDS, GUAM, NAURU, NEW CALEDONIA, NEW HEBRIDES, NEW ZEALAND, NIUE, NORFOLK ISLAND, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, PITCAIRN, SOLOMON ISLANDS, TOKELAU, TONGA, TRUST TERRITORIES OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS, TUVALU, UK, US, WALLIS AND FORTUNA, AND WESTERN SAMOA. END FYI.)
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PAGE 04 STATE 164036

A PERHAPS MORE WORKABLE AND PRODUCTIVE GROUPING WOULD BE THE PACIFIC FORUM, A SMALLER BUT RECOGNIZED SUB-GROUPING OF THE REGION. (FYI: TWELVE FORUM MEMBERS ARE AUSTRALIA, COOK ISLANDS, FIJI, GILBERT ISLANDS, NAURU, NEW ZEALAND, NIUE, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, SOLOMON ISLANDS, TUVALU, TONGA, WESTERN SAMOA. END FYI.)

5. SHOULD THIS PROPOSED TRAINING PROGRAM BE APPROVED, EMBASSY WILL BE PLEASED TO WORK WITH DEA, CUSTOMS AND GNZ OFFICIALS TO ASSURE ITS SUCCESS. SELDEN
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Message Attributes

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